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ON ONE HAND, BLACK MANTA IS INVADING ATLANTIS--
--ON THE OTHER, NUCLEAR MISSILES ARE THREATENING NEW VENICE!
IF YOU CAN ONLY SAVE ONE, AQUAMAN-- WHICH WILL YOU CHOOSE?
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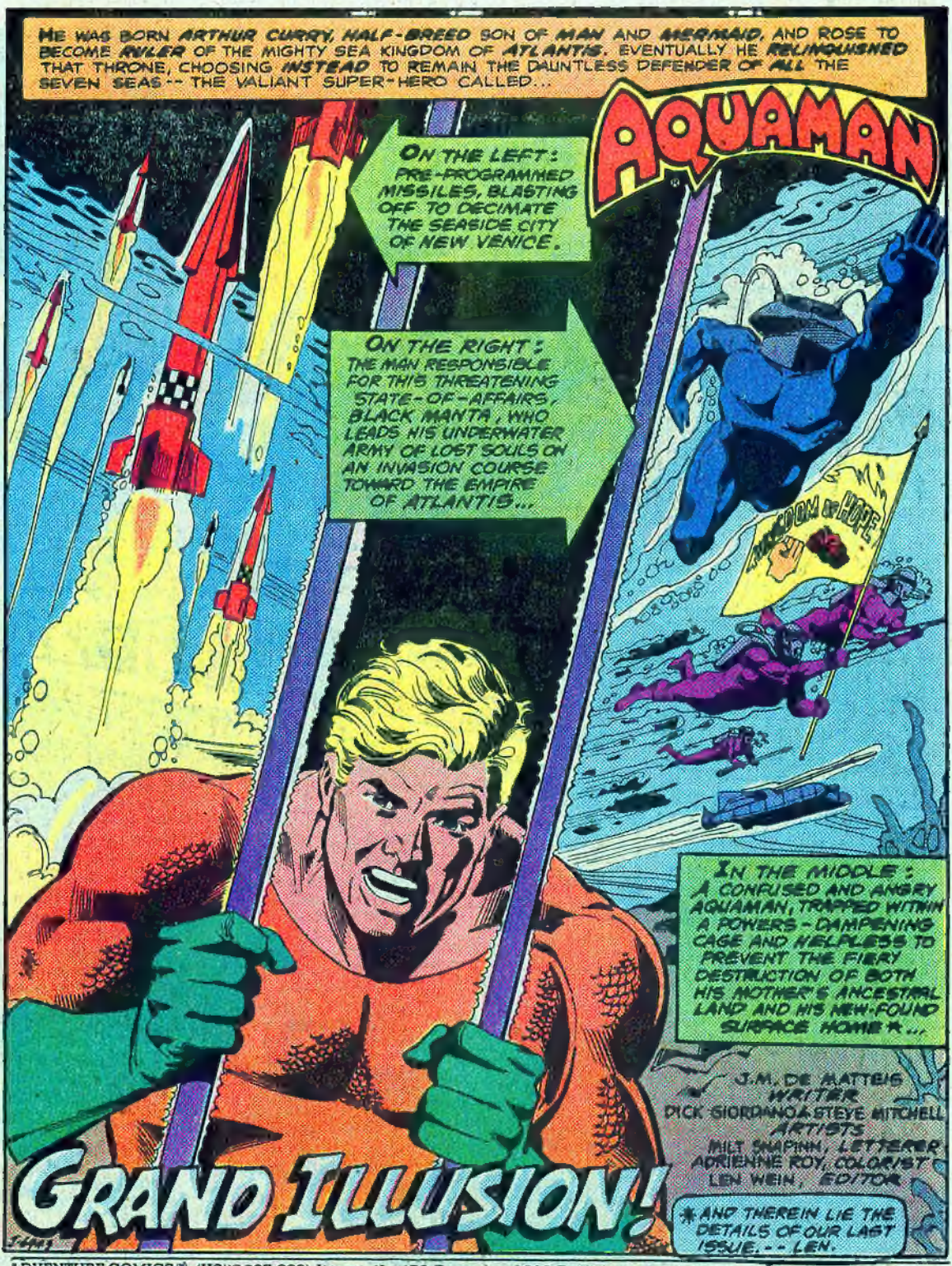
HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
ON THE LEFT: PRE-PROGRAMMED MISSILES, BLASTING OFF TO DECIMATE THE SEASIDE CITY OF NEW VENICE.
ON THE RIGHT: THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS THREATENING STATE-OF-AFFAIRS, BLACK MANTA, WHO LEADS HIS UNDERWATER ARMY OF LOST SOULS ON AN INVASION COURSE TOWARD THE EMPIRE OF ATLANTIS...
IN THE MIDDLE: A CONFUSED AND ANGRY AQUAMAN, TRAPPED WITHIN A POWERS-DAMPENING CAGE AND HELPLESS TO PREVENT THE FIERY DESTRUCTION OF BOTH HIS MOTHER'S ANCESTRAL LAND AND HIS NEW-FOUND SURFACE HOME*...
GRAND ILLUSION!
J.M. DE MATTEIS WRITER
DICK GIORDANO & STEVE MITCHELL ARTISTS
MILT SHAPINN, LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY, COLORIST
LEN WEIN, EDITOR
* AND THEREIN LIE THE DETAILS OF OUR LAST ISSUE. -- LEN.

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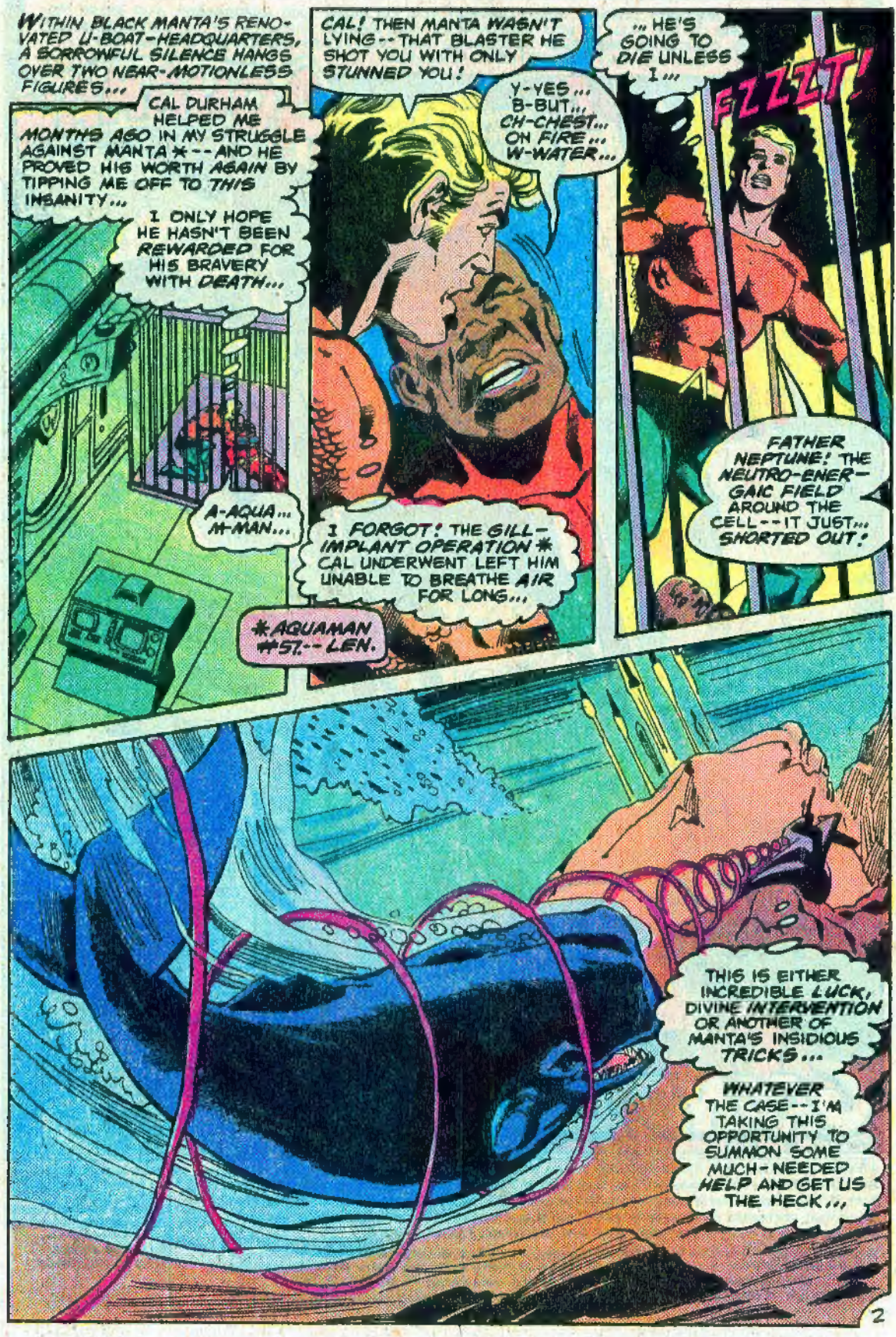
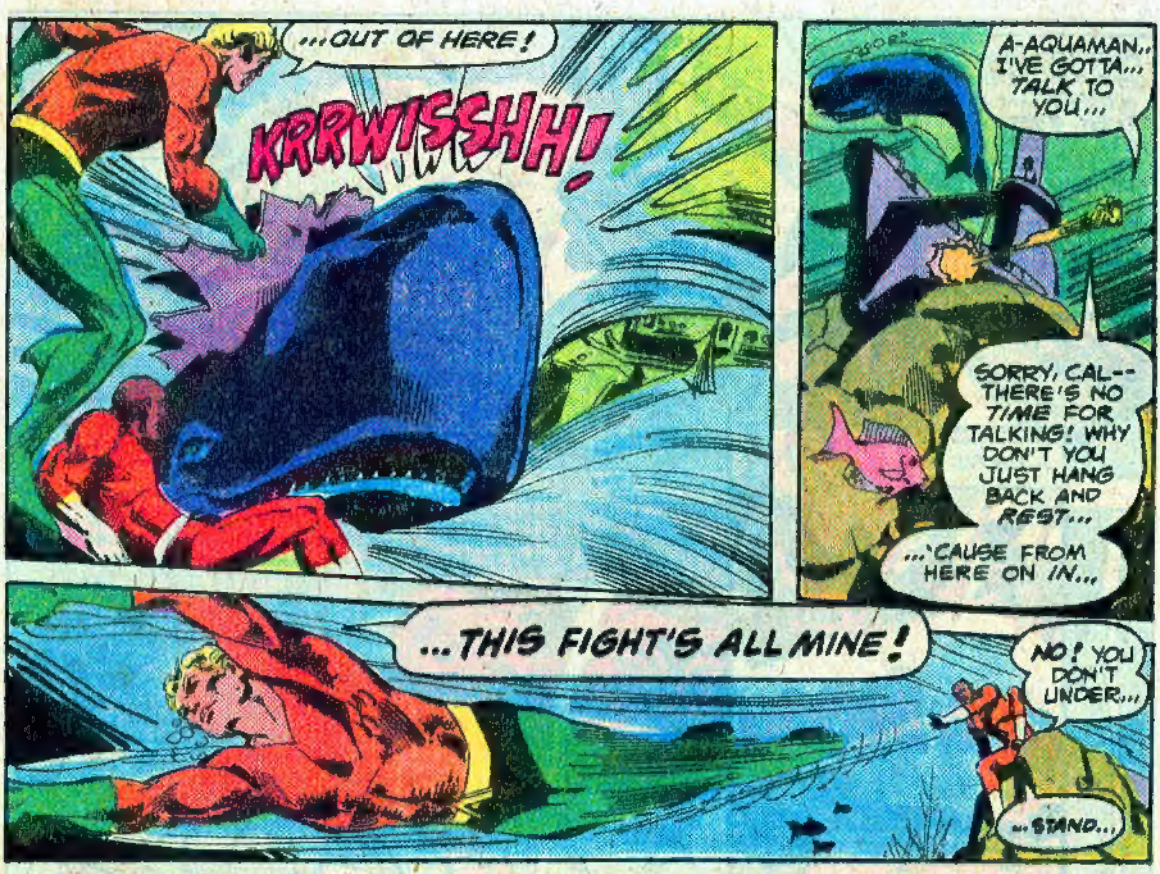
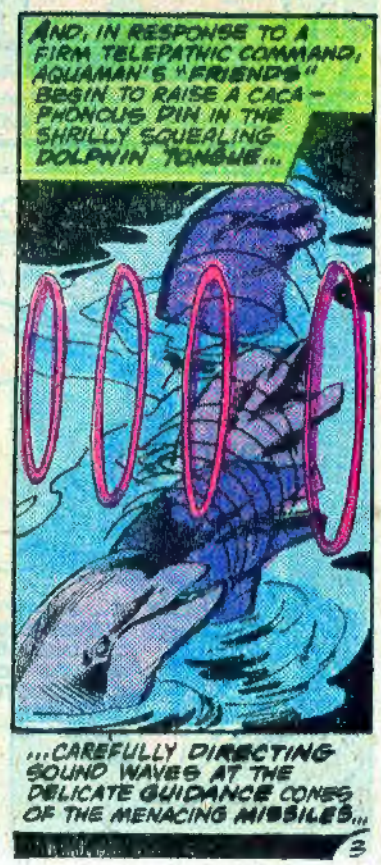
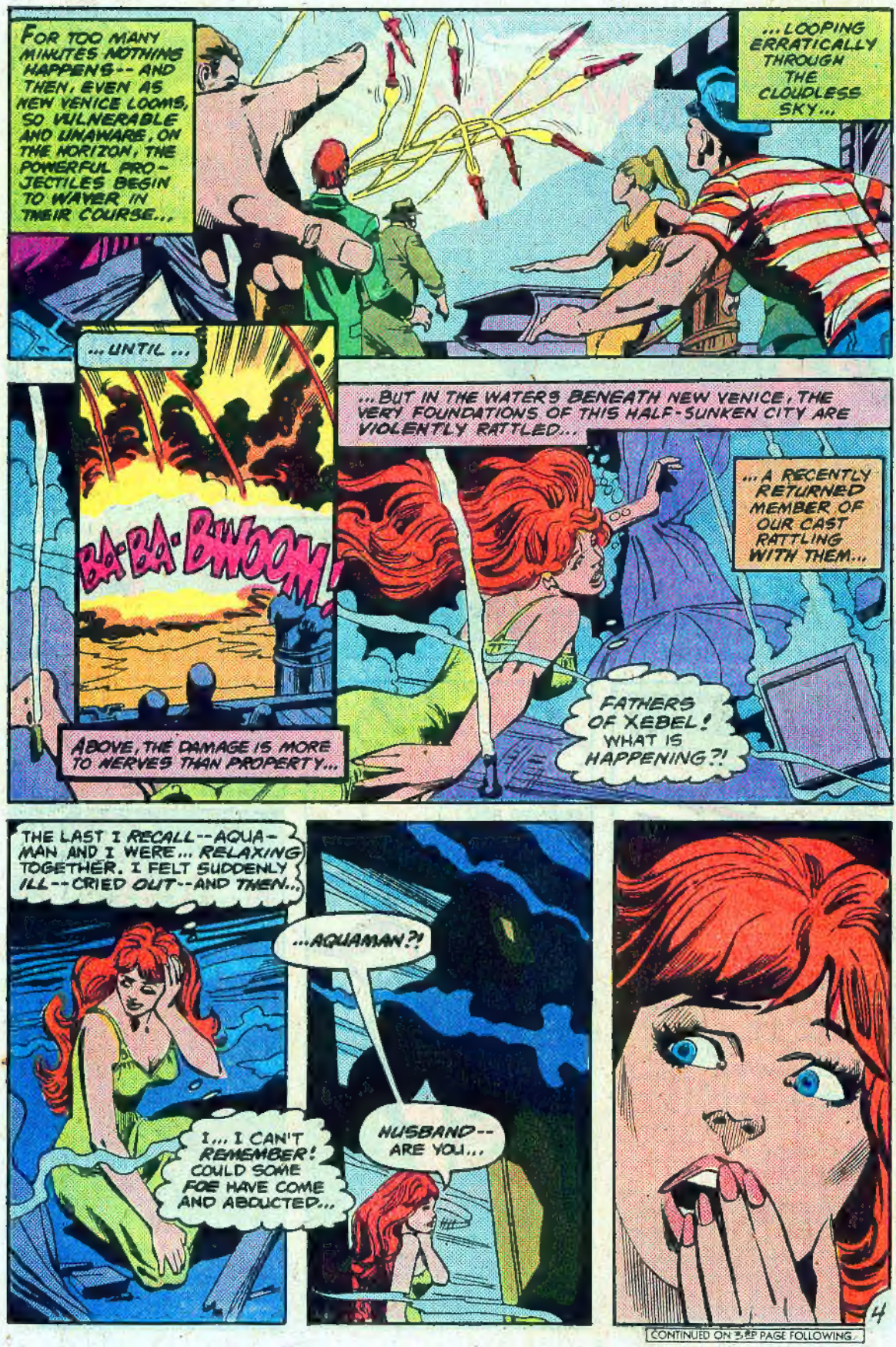

WITHIN BLACK MANTA'S RENOVATED U-BOAT-HEADQUARTERS, A SORROWFUL SILENCE HANGS OVER TWO NEAR-MOTIONLESS FIGURES...
CAL DURHAM HELPED ME MONTHS AGO IN MY STRUGGLE AGAINST MANTA * -- AND HE PROVED HIS WORTH AGAIN BY TIPPING ME OFF TO THIS INSANITY...
I ONLY HOPE HE HASN'T BEEN REWARDED FOR HIS BRAVERY WITH DEATH...
A-AQUA... M-MAN...
CAL! THEN MANTA WASN'T LYING -- THAT BLASTER HE SHOT YOU WITH ONLY STUNNED YOU!
Y-YES... B-BUT... CH-CHEST... ON FIRE... W-WATER...
I FORGOT! THE GILL-IMPLANT OPERATION * CAL UNDERWENT LEFT HIM UNABLE TO BREATHE AIR FOR LONG...
*AQUAMAN #57. -- LEN.
...HE'S GOING TO DIE UNLESS I...
FZZZT!
FATHER NEPTUNE! THE NEUTRO-ENERGAIC FIELD AROUND THE CELL -- IT JUST... SHORTED OUT!
THIS IS EITHER INCREDIBLE LUCK, DIVINE INTERVENTION OR ANOTHER OF MANTA'S INSIDIOUS TRICKS...
WHATEVER THE CASE -- I'M TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUMMON SOME MUCH-NEEDED HELP AND GET US THE HECK...
2


...OUT OF HERE!
KRRWISSHH!
A-AQUAMAN.. I'VE GOTTA... TALK TO YOU...
SORRY, CAL-- THERE'S NO TIME FOR TALKING! WHY DON'T YOU JUST HANG BACK AND REST...
...'CAUSE FROM HERE ON IN...
...THIS FIGHT'S ALL MINE!
NO! YOU DON'T UNDER...
...STAND...

BUT, AS FAR AS THE DETERMINED SEA KING IS CONCERNED, HE UNDERSTANDS WELL ENOUGH...
ATLANTIS HAS AN ARMY OF ITS OWN TO PROTECT ITSELF -- I JUST PRAY THEY CAN HOLD OFF MANTA'S MOB OF MALCONTENTS...

... LONG ENOUGH FOR MY DOLPHIN FRIENDS AND ME TO DEAL WITH THESE DEATHBIRDS...


AND, IN RESPONSE TO A FIRM TELEPATHIC COMMAND, AQUAMAN'S "FRIENDS" BEGIN TO RAISE A CACAPHONOUS DIN IN THE SHRILLY SQUEALING DOLPHIN TONGUE...
...CAREFULLY DIRECTING SOUND WAVES AT THE DELICATE GUIDANCE CONES OF THE MENACING MISSILES...


FOR TOO MANY MINUTES NOTHING HAPPENS -- AND THEN, EVEN AS NEW VENICE LOOMS, SO VULNERABLE AND UNAWARE, ON THE HORIZON, THE POWERFUL PROJECTILES BEGIN TO WAVER IN THEIR COURSE...
...LOOPING ERRATICALLY THROUGH THE CLOUDLESS SKY...
...UNTIL...
BA-BA-BWOOM!
ABOVE, THE DAMAGE IS MORE TO NERVES THAN PROPERTY...
...BUT IN THE WATERS BENEATH NEW VENICE, THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF THIS HALF-SUNKEN CITY ARE VIOLENTLY RATTLED...
...A RECENTLY RETURNED MEMBER OF OUR CAST RATTLING WITH THEM...
FATHERS OF XEBEL! WHAT IS HAPPENING?!
THE LAST I RECALL -- AQUAMAN AND I WERE... RELAXING TOGETHER. I FELT SUDDENLY ILL -- CRIED OUT -- AND THEN...
...AQUAMAN?!
I... I CAN'T REMEMBER! COULD SOME FOE HAVE COME AND ABDUCTED...
HUSBAND -- ARE YOU...
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

"AAYYY...IT'S ME. THE FONZ! NOW CATCH MY NEW SHOW AND MY NEW FRIENDS EVERY SATURDAY MORNING ON ABC!"
ALL NEW!
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NEW SHOW!
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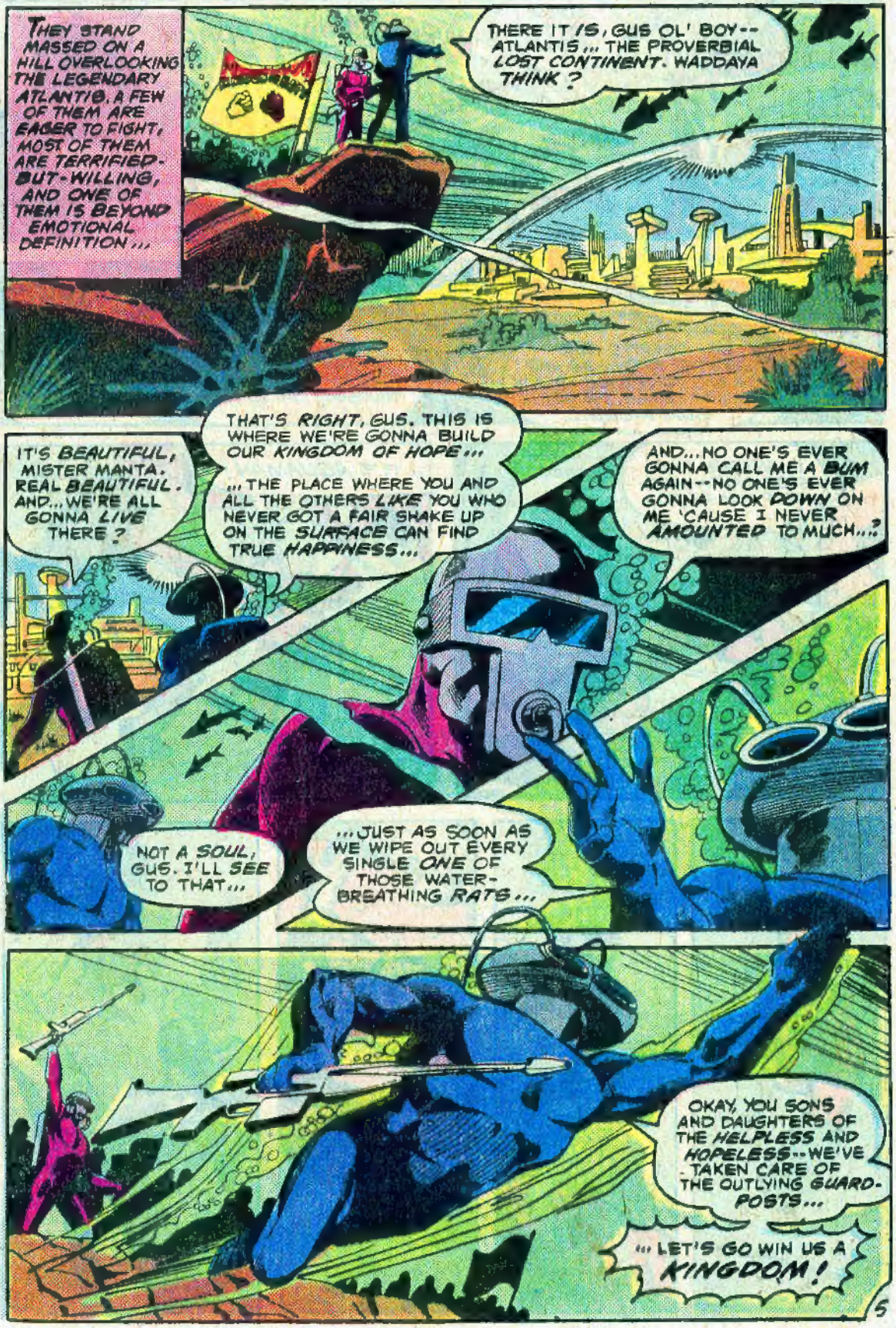
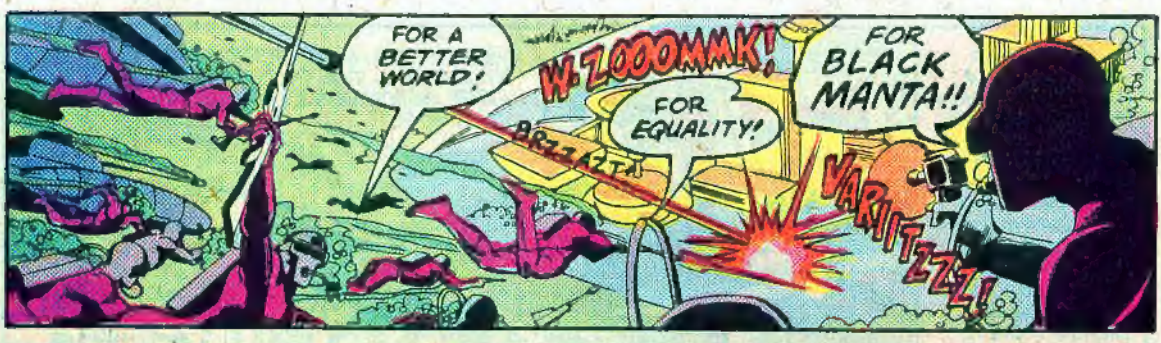
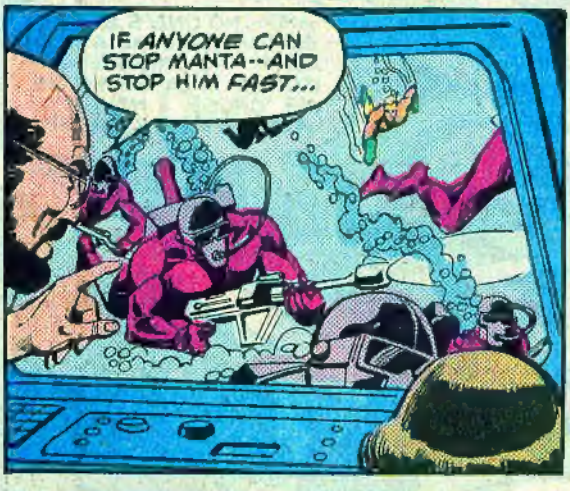
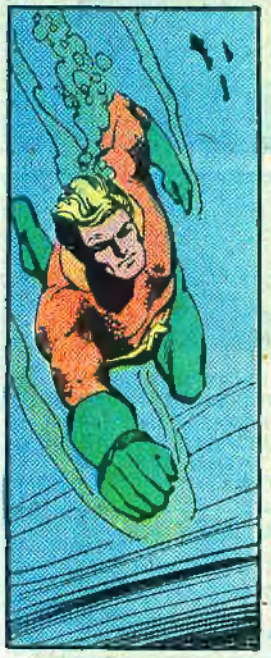

THEY STAND MASSED ON A HILL OVERLOOKING THE LEGENDARY ATLANTIS. A FEW OF THEM ARE EAGER TO FIGHT, MOST OF THEM ARE TERRIFIED-BUT-WILLING, AND ONE OF THEM IS BEYOND EMOTIONAL DEFINITION...
THERE IT IS, GUS OL' BOY--ATLANTIS... THE PROVERBIAL LOST CONTINENT. WADDAYA THINK?
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, MISTER MANTA. REAL BEAUTIFUL. AND...WE'RE ALL GONNA LIVE THERE?
THAT'S RIGHT, GUS. THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GONNA BUILD OUR KINGDOM OF HOPE...
...THE PLACE WHERE YOU AND ALL THE OTHERS LIKE YOU WHO NEVER GOT A FAIR SHAKE UP ON THE SURFACE CAN FIND TRUE HAPPINESS...
AND...NO ONE'S EVER GONNA CALL ME A BUM AGAIN--NO ONE'S EVER GONNA LOOK DOWN ON ME 'CAUSE I NEVER AMOUNTED TO MUCH...?
NOT A SOUL, GUS. I'LL SEE TO THAT...
...JUST AS SOON AS WE WIPE OUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE WATER-BREATHING RATS...
OKAY, YOU SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE HELPLESS AND HOPELESS--WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF THE OUTLYING GUARD-POSTS...
...LET'S GO WIN US A KINGDOM!

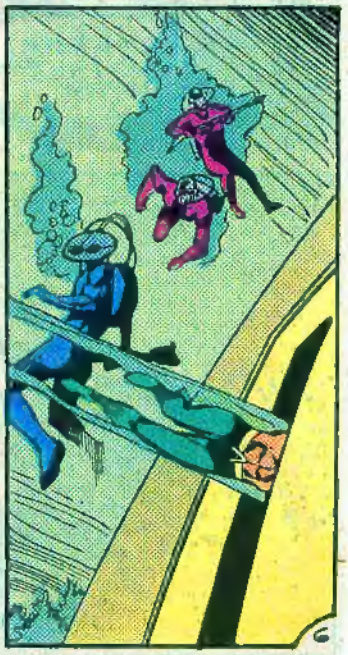

FOR A BETTER WORLD!
WZOOOMMK!
FOR EQUALITY!
FOR BLACK MANTA!!
BRIAZT!
VARITZZZ!

AND, WITHIN THE DOMED-IN CITY OF MYTH...
SO--DESPITE OUR RADIOED WARNINGS AND PLEAS FOR PEACE--BLACK MANTA COMES. I'M NOT SURPRISED...
...STILL--OCONN--I'D PREFER NOT TO SEND ATLANTIS'S YOUTH TRUDGING OFF TO WAR...
YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO, LORD VULKO...LOOK!


IF ANYONE CAN STOP MANTA--AND STOP HIM FAST...

...IT'S AQUAMAN!





I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT SCALED SEA-SCUM ESCAPED MY TRAP-- BUT DID YOU SEE HIM?! HE WAS SO SCARED, HE RAN RIGHT PAST US!
THE GREAT AQUAMAN JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO GO AND HIDE INSIDE!
SO LET'S GET IT ON, FOLKS-- WE'VE GOT THIS BATTLE IN OUR HIP POCKETS--ALL WE'VE GOT TO DO IS BUST DOWN THOSE...
...GATES...?
NO ONE NEEDS TO "BUST DOWN" ANYTHING, MANTA. THERE'LL BE NO WAR HERE...
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU--
--I KNOW WHAT KIND OF LIVES YOU'VE LED AND I KNOW WHAT KIND OF LIES BLACK MANTA HAS TOLD YOU ABOUT US...
...NOW I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU SOME TRUTHS...
IF YOU'RE SEEKING A HAVEN --A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR WHAT YOU ARE... THEN PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS...
ATLANTIS AND HER UNDERSEA NEIGHBORS SPREAD OUT FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES ACROSS THE OCEAN FLOOR. THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU ALL HERE AND YOU ARE WELCOME...
...VULKO?
OUR PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN WHAT IT IS TO BE PERSECUTED--TO BE KEPT APART... AND WE CAN NOT--WE WILL NOT--SEE OTHERS SUFFER THE SAME!
NOW--WILL YOU LEAVE YOUR GOD OF VIOLENCE AND PASS THESE PORTALS IN PEACE?
SIMPLY PUT...
...THEY WILL...
ALL OF THEM, THAT IS...

...EXCEPT ONE!
YOU IDIOTS--YOU FOOLS! THEY'RE LYING--CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?!
THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN PEACE IS TO KILL --MAIM--DESTROY!!
MANTA--WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT...
...UP...?!
BY THE SEVEN SEAS! THAT'S A HARD-WATER SHIELD...AND THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO CAN CREATE ONE OF THOSE IS...
...MERA!
MERA--YOU'RE BACK!*
BACK...? I HAVEN'T BEEN ANYWHERE, AQUAMAN. I--
HEY--HOW ABOUT SAYING HELLO TO ME, PAL...
* MERA HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE ADVENTURE #475.-- LEN.
...AFTER ALL, I'M THE ONE WHO THOUGHT OF LOOKING HER UP--FIGURED SHE COULD BE OF A LITTLE HELP...
...AND--UNLIKE YOU, MY MAN--YOUR WIFE LISTENS WHEN I TALK TO HER...
LISTENS...?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU SINCE WE HOOKED UP AGAIN, AQUAMAN--THIS DUDE IS NOT BLACK MANTA!
WHAT?!?
WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE SLAMMER LAST WEEK --OUR BOY MANTA WAS SAFE AND SOUND IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY CE--
SKA-DA-BLA-BOOM!
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE PAGES OF ACTION COMICS #517! SEE YOU THERE!

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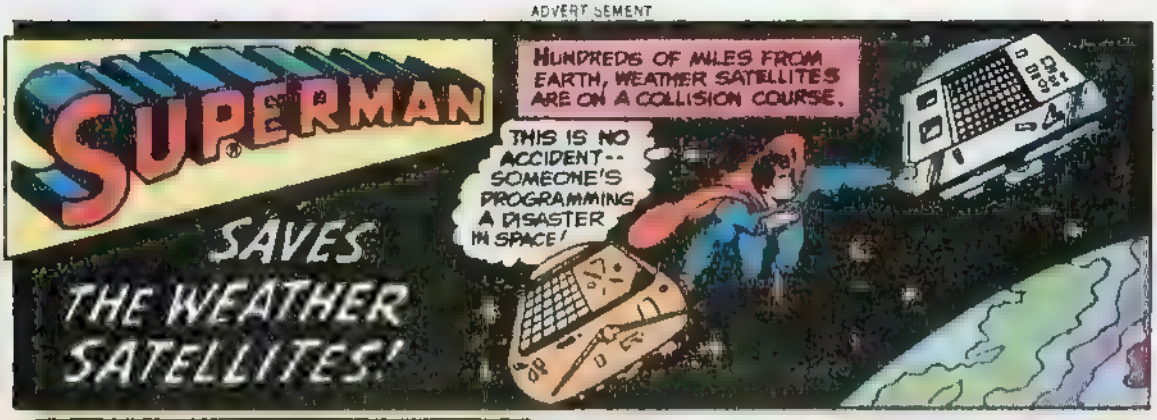
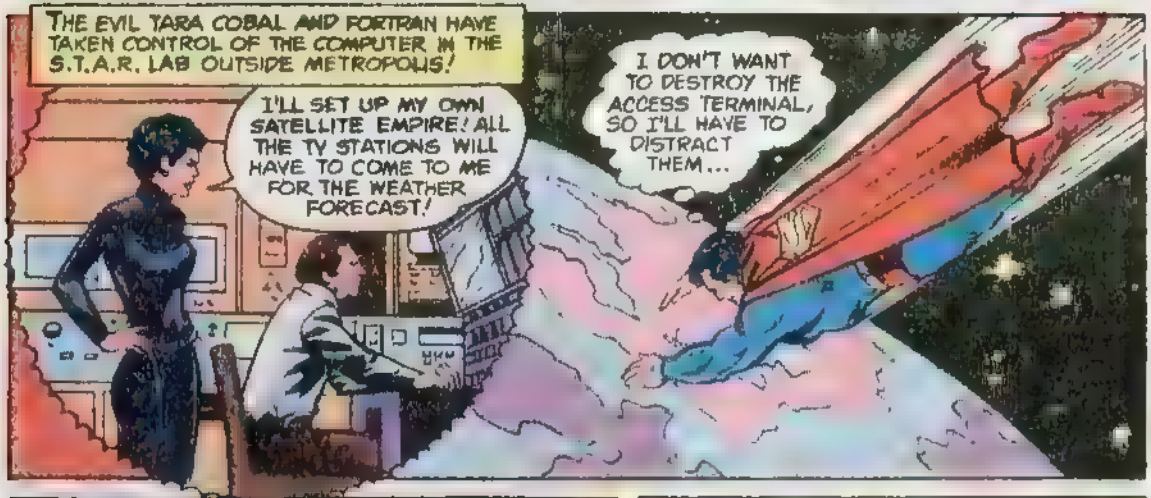
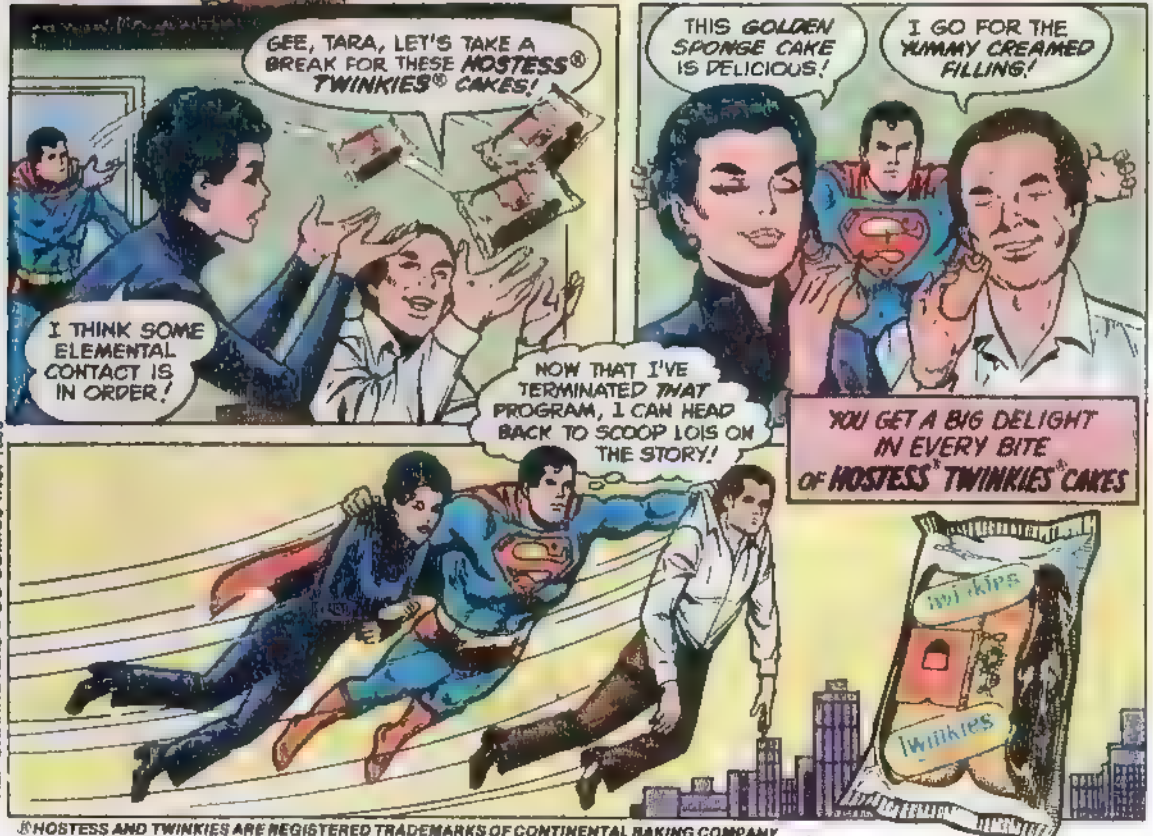

SUPERMAN
SAVES THE WEATHER SATELLITES!
HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM EARTH, WEATHER SATELLITES ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE.
THIS IS NO ACCIDENT-- SOMEONE'S PROGRAMMING A DISASTER IN SPACE!


THE EVIL TARA COBAL AND FORTRAN HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE COMPUTER IN THE S.T.A.R. LAB OUTSIDE METROPOLIS!
I'LL SET UP MY OWN SATELLITE EMPIRE! ALL THE TV STATIONS WILL HAVE TO COME TO ME FOR THE WEATHER FORECAST!
I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY THE ACCESS TERMINAL, SO I'LL HAVE TO DISTRACT THEM...


GEE, TARA, LET'S TAKE A BREAK FOR THESE HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES!
I THINK SOME ELEMENTAL CONTACT IS IN ORDER!
THIS GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE IS DELICIOUS!
I GO FOR THE YUMMY CREAMED FILLING!
NOW THAT I'VE TERMINATED THAT PROGRAM, I CAN HEAD BACK TO SCOOP LOIS ON THE STORY!
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES
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DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-636

Dear Len,

I've been a fan of Plastic Man since his short run of 1976-77. Since PLAS #11 came out, I've read several of the Cole stories, and all I can say about the new *Adventure* series is: You've done Jack proud. The new stories are fantastic, written with tongue firmly in cheek, just as Plas was meant to be, and Joe Staton adds that element of insanity that was sadly absent from the Ramona Fradon stories.

Looking at the first page of #473, I see that the team is now Marty Pasko (remember when he was "Pesky" Pasko? God, I'm only 16 and I'm sounding like an old man!) and Joe Staton. The same team that did the Metal Men-vs.-giant-babies stories ("I don't *wanna* take over the world! I wanna watch 'Shazam!' on TV like other kids!" "If you don't do as I say, I'll send you to bed without your Calculus!!"). Now, *those* were godawful funny! Funnier than WELCOME BACK, KOTTER, and *that* was *supposed* to be funny! And these new Plastic Man stories have that same lunatic quality! I mean, look at some of the *characters* we've been treated to! A Russian ballet dancer who actually doesn't want to defect (Wow, man, an endangered species!), an albino, and a pair of caricatures of old-time actors (Humphrey Bogart and Peter Lorre as: (ominous chord) Terry Cotta and Mason Stucko, known as (ominous chord again) Brickface (yup, that's why!) and the Trowel). And now we're treated to three lawyers named Largesse, Medsan & Small and a pair of Beauty-and-the-Beast sisters in Cindy & Granetta Bloch. I can't wait to see what Acid-Tongue, Blind Ali & the Skunk look like (Don Rickles, Ray Charles and.....right?).

I see the stories are also following Cole's practice of never using titles. Every story is just "Plastic Man". Nice touch.

So, Len, Marty, Joe, Paul, Steve, and all the rest. Keep up the great work, and DC's oldest book will be right up there as one of the best.

Paul Balze
116 Crest Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD. 21061

It seems like every time we turn around there's a new "generation" of comic fans and pros coming along. If you feel old remembering "Pesky" Pasko as a letterhack, imagine how strange it feels for the writer of this letter column to remember taking over Dateline:Adventure at a time when Marty still wrote occasional letters to DC!

* * * * *

Dear People,

Starman continues to be the more consistently engaging of your two current features in ADVENTURE, in my estimation. This is because Paul Levitz is continually moving Starman *forward*, whereas the Plastic Man strip seems to have become bogged down in a rut it sorely needs getting out of.

For instance, ADVENTURE #472 and #473 are both devoted to chronicling an encounter with a trio of villains so pointedly self-parodying as to make Chester Gould wince profusely; now, looking over the letter column of #473, I see you plan to serve up much the same thing next issue, with "not one, not two, but three new super-villains, Acid-Tongue, Blind Ali, and The Skunk." Now, please don't misunderstand me, as I have no desire whatsoever to see Plas fighting costumed villains, or becoming embroiled in the kind of storylines presented in your mid-'60s Plastic Man book. In fact, I believe firmly that your current "Dick Tracy" approach is the way to go, in combining the best Golden Age aspects of the character with a modern setting.

What I'm complaining about is that too much of even the best formula becomes quickly tiring and repetitive, and that's the problem which I think is facing the Plas strip at present. Try some different storylines, for a change, possibly some different milieus, and see what happens. Try a haunted house story, try a western, try *anything* to keep the strip as flexible and multi-faceted in appeal as Plas himself is as a character.

As to Starman, all I'm going to say this time out is that I chuckled repeatedly over page 3, panel 7 of #473 (and you and I think *we've* got problems!).

Mark R. Yanko
1101 Sheffield Ave., Aliquippa, Pa 15001

Dear Editor,

Let's talk about artistic license, shall we?

The cover of ADVENTURE #473 showed Ross Andru's version of Plastic Man rescuing a beautiful redhead from a defective roller coaster, while Joe Staton's rendition made that self-same redhead seven kinds of ugly in the personage of Granetta Bloch.

How did their wires get so crossed?

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset Street
Scranton, PA 18509

Hmmm...at first, we thought it might have been that Staton was busy drawing the story while Andru was pencilling the cover, and both simply interpreted a brief script description differently. Then we realized that couldn't be it, because Granetta debuted in the previous issue—which was almost certainly pencilled long before the cover in question. That means it could have been a mistake by our otherwise-impeccably efficient editorial department, or it could have been a deliberate choice to make the cover more attractive. Which leaves us a choice between admitting to being mildly mendacious or a drop deceptive, we suppose...or could we just cop to artistic license? (After all, that was the way you brought it up!)

* * * * *

LEN'S LINE-UP

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 11th

THE FLASH #292—Guess which villain attacks *Flash* in 'Mirror, Mirror, Off the Wall' by Cary Bates and Don Heck. Then, *Firestorm* fights to free 'The Hostages of Precinct 13' by Gerry Conway, George Perez and Bob Smith.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #185—The concluding chapter of the monumental team up as Gerry Conway, George Perez and Frank McLaughlin present 'Crisis on Apokolips, or Darkseid Rising!'

WEIRD WAR TALES #94—'The Eye of Hell' looks at *The War That Time Forgot* with Robert Kanigher and Franc Reyes. George Kashdan, Dick Ayers and Dan Adkins are 'Hungry for the Kill", Kanigher and Fred Carrillo see a "Battle Angel", and J.M. DeMatteis and Gerald Forton travel "Through the Past, Darkly'.

WONDER WOMAN #274—Gerry Conway, Jose Delbo and Dave Hunt serve up 'One Super-Villain Made to Order'. Plus *Power Girl* joins *The Huntress* to 'Speak From the Shadows" with Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Steve Mitchell.

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #2—"Wrath of the Ravager" is a 25-page blockbuster by Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal.

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 25th

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #287—Barry Jameson, Nestor Redondo and Edgar Bercasio play in 'Silent Snow, Scarlet Snow', J.M. DeMatteis and E.R. Cruz stay 'Forever Young', and Jack Oleck, Alex Saviuk and Bob Layton tell the 'Legend of the Lost'.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #246—The Faceless Warrior battles General Rommel and 'Only the Desert Wins" in a Bob Haney/Dick Ayers/Gerry Talaoc tale. Plus "The Ruptured Duck' by Cary Burkett, Ayers and Dan Adkins, and a short-short by Robert Kanigher.

MYSTERY IN SPACE #114—Gerry Conway and Tom Yeates are "Killing Time"; Steve Skeates and Steve Ditko sound the "Battle Cry"; Carl Wessler and Johnny Craig pull off "Betrayal on Gamma Nova"; Dan Mishkin, Gary Cohn, Trevor von Eeden and John Celardo get a 'Second Chance', and Paul Levitz and Dan Spiegle tell about 'The One That Matters".

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BORN PRINCE GAYYN HE WAS EXECUTED AS A SACRIFICE TO A STABLE THRONE--
REBORN A HERO, HE APPEARED TO DIE TO SAVE HIS SISTER'S CROWN. TWICE DEAD, NEVER DYING, HE LIVES ON...
STARMAN
HOW DO YOU KILL A CREATURE THAT CANNOT DIE? IF A LIVING ORGANISM COULD BE IMBUED WITH THE ESSENCE OF IMMORTALITY, COULD THAT ESSENCE EVER BE REMOVED?
OBSERVE THE WORKINGS OF AN IMMORTAL RACE, AND SEE HOW THEY HAVE SOLVED THAT DILEMMA...
...AND WATCH THE GENTLE ALIEN WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AS MM'RONN--DIE!
...and death's icy touch shall come searching...
PAUL LEVITZ WRITER, CREATOR
STEVE DITKO PENCILLER/DESIGNER
ROMEO TANGHAL INKER
ADRIENNE • COLORIST
GASPAR • LETTERER
LEN WEIN EDITOR

FOR HAVING TRANSGRESSED AGAINST YOUR VOWS OF SILENT MEDITATION AND SAVING THE ENTITY NOW CALLED STARMAN, WE HAVE SENTENCED YOU TO BE ENDED.
NOW LET THE TERMINATION BEGIN!
I ACCEPT YOUR VERDICT, MY PEERS...YET DENY THAT WHAT I DID WAS WRONG. THE SAVING OF A LIFE IS ALWAYS A NOBLE TASK--
--AND IN DEATH, I CHOOSE TO TAKE THE NAME BY WHICH STARMAN CALLED ME, AND PASS FROM THIS REALM AS MM'TORR!
ATTABOY, MM'TORR! IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ALMOST COMING TO YOUR SENSES!
SWOOSH!
WHAT--?! A MORTAL CREATURE-- HERE--??
IT DENIES ALL PROBABILITY!
MAYBE IT DOES DEFY YOUR LOGIC, BUT THAT GRUMPY GREEN CURMUDGEON SAVED MY LIFE, AND NOW I'M GOING TO SAVE HIM!
HE'S A FRIEND--AND I LEARNED LONG AGO THAT YOU SOMETIMES HAVE TO IGNORE WHAT YOUR FRIENDS SAY AND DO WHAT'S GOOD FOR THEM!
HIS DEATH IS ORDAINED, MORTAL!
YOU HAVE NOT THE POWER TO INTERFERE WITH THE ELDER RACE!
KI-POW!
2

EL-ELDER RACE, HUNH? ≥UFFE...
WELL--≥UFFE--LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING...
...IF THAT'S THE BEST YOU CAN DO, YOUR RACE MAY NOT GET ANY OLDER!
MN'TORR TAUGHT ME THAT MY BODY CAN ABSORB AND CONVERT RADIATION WAVE-LENGTHS--
--AND ANYTHING YOU CAN THROW AT ME, I CAN TOSS RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
NO, STARMAN--YOU MUSTN'T INTERFERE! THIS IS MY RIGHTFUL DOOM!
MN'TORR, THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY!
THE JOY OF LIFE IS THE ONE CONSTANT IN THE UNIVERSE -- TRUE FOR ALL RACES, EVEN YOURS, NO MATTER HOW BIZARRE YOU MAY BE!
AND IF THE INSTINCT FOR SELF-PRESER-VATION ISN'T ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU ALIVE--
--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

THERE! IT TOOK EVERY RAD I HAD IN ME, BUT THE CRYSTAL'S MELTING BEFORE IT COULD FINISH SOLIDIFYING!
NOW TO BREAK YOU--
--FREE...?
YEEEOOOW!
FULTH
OOM!
WHAT IS TO BE DONE? THE CRYSTAL HAS BEEN SHATTERED, AND IT IS NOT PROPER TO BEGIN THE RITUAL ANEW!
HE HAS CHOSEN TO CALL HIMSELF BY A MORTAL NAME, AND WAS SAVED BY A MORTAL!
THEN LET HIM LIVE AS A MORTAL... HIS STAFF BROKEN, HIS POWER GONE...
...AND WHEN HIS HUMAN PROTECTOR FAILS HIM, LET HIM DIE AS A MORTAL AS WELL.

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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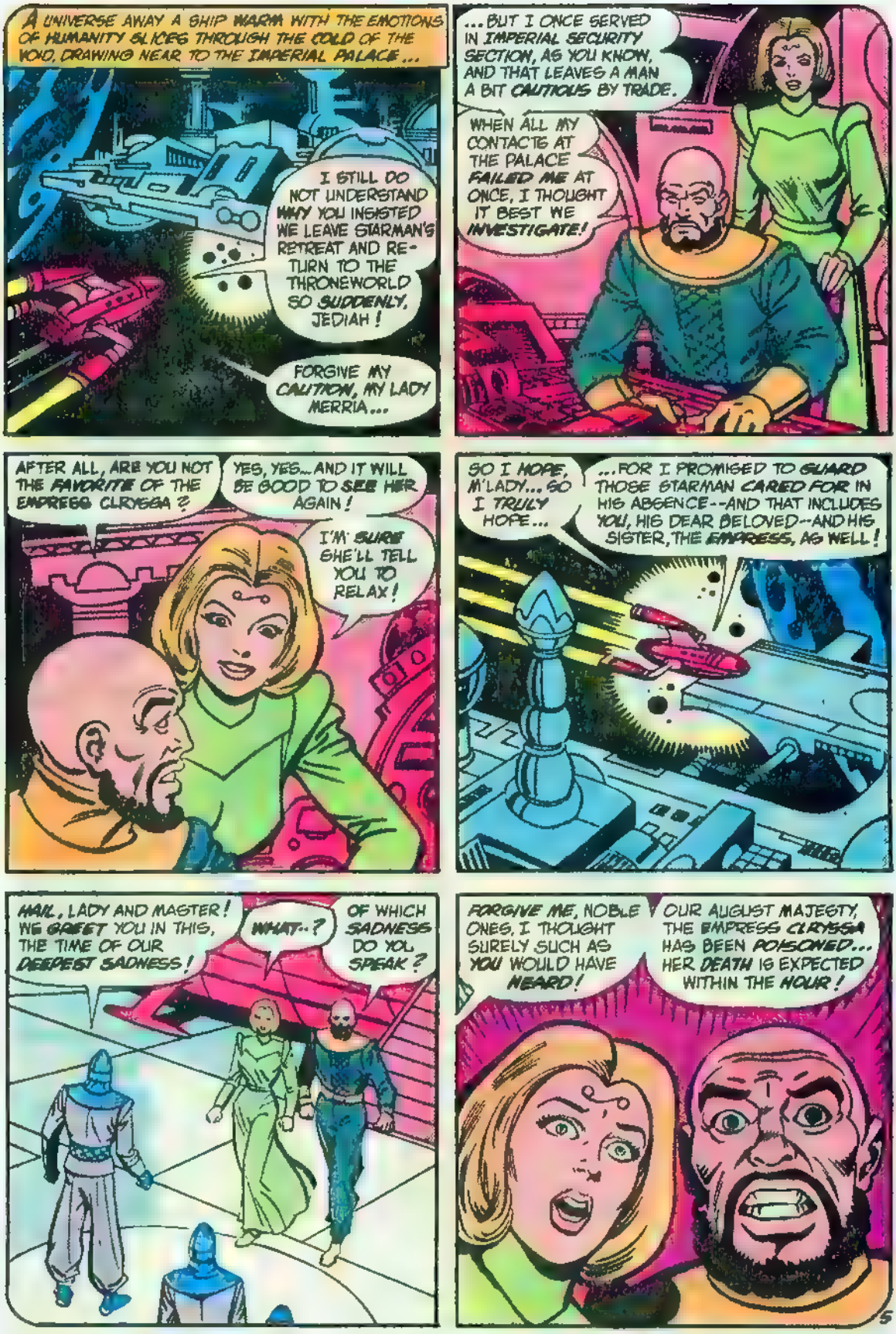
A UNIVERSE AWAY A SHIP WARM WITH THE EMOTIONS OF HUMANITY SLICES THROUGH THE COLD OF THE VOID, DRAWING NEAR TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE...
I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU INSISTED WE LEAVE STARMAN'S RETREAT AND RETURN TO THE THRONEWORLD SO SUDDENLY, JEDIAH!
FORGIVE MY CAUTION, MY LADY MERRIA...
...BUT I ONCE SERVED IN IMPERIAL SECURITY SECTION, AS YOU KNOW, AND THAT LEAVES A MAN A BIT CAUTIOUS BY TRADE.
WHEN ALL MY CONTACTS AT THE PALACE FAILED ME AT ONCE, I THOUGHT IT BEST WE INVESTIGATE!
AFTER ALL, ARE YOU NOT THE FAVORITE OF THE EMPRESS CLYSSA?
YES, YES... AND IT WILL BE GOOD TO SEE HER AGAIN!
I'M SURE SHE'LL TELL YOU TO RELAX!
SO I HOPE, M'LADY... SO I TRULY HOPE...
...FOR I PROMISED TO GUARD THOSE STARMAN CARED FOR IN HIS ABSENCE--AND THAT INCLUDES YOU, HIS DEAR BELOVED--AND HIS SISTER, THE EMPRESS, AS WELL!
HAIL, LADY AND MASTER! WE GREET YOU IN THIS, THE TIME OF OUR DEEPEST SADNESS!
WHAT..?
OF WHICH SADNESS DO YOU SPEAK?
FORGIVE ME, NOBLE ONES, I THOUGHT SURELY SUCH AS YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD!
OUR AUGUST MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS CLYSSA HAS BEEN POISONED... HER DEATH IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE HOUR!
5

WHILE ELSEWHERE...
Uhhh...I-I'M ALIVE!
Humph! IMAGINE THAT!
THIS IS HARDLY A MOMENT FOR HUMOR, LAD!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MOMENT THAT WASN'T RIGHT FOR A LITTLE HUMOR, MN'TORR! ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WAKE UP AND FIND OURSELVES-- OH!
ANYWAY EXACTLY HAVE WE FOUND OURSELVES, MN'TORR?
A SOUND QUESTION. I WISH I KNEW THE ANSWER.
KNOW THAT MY WISDOM IS NO LONGER AS DEEP AS ONCE IT WAS, STARMAN... MUCH HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM ME.
WE'RE ALIVE, MN'TORR, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.
A TEMPORARY CONDITION, I FEAR. WE HAVE BEEN SENT TO THIS MIST-ENSHROUDED SWAMP TO DIE!
THEN WE'LL FOOL THEM, OLD FRIEND, AND LIVE.
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT!
ULP--OR MAYBE IT'S NOT SO SIMPLE!

SO
H
BE CALM AND LET DESTINY TAKE ITS COURSE, STARMAN! OUR TIME IS DONE!
I THOUGHT WE ALREADY FINISHED THIS ARGUMENT, MN'TORR.
MY ENERGIES ARE STILL DRAINED FROM BURNING THROUGH YOUR WOULD-BE CRYSTAL COFFIN-- CAN'T BURN MY WAY OUT OF THIS--
--BUT I CAN STILL BOIL THE WATER HOT ENOUGH TO LET US SLIP FREE!
SSSSSS
AND NOW, MN'TORR, YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT THE INEVITABLE?
I HAVE GIVEN UP MUCH FOR YOU, MY YOUNG FRIEND!
WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOUR DEATH SCREAM, THOSE MANY MONTHS AGO, I BROKE MY VOWS--TO TEACH YOU HOW TO SAVE YOURSELF!
BUT YOU HAVE REPAID ME WELL!
YOU MASTERED MY LESSONS, AND USED YOUR POWERS TO KEEP YOUR SISTER'S THRONE SAFE FROM THOSE WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN TYRANTS.

YOU HAVE SAVED LIVES, HELPED YOUR FELLOWS, AND USED YOUR POWERS WELL.
ALL THIS I HOPED FOR, IN THAT MOMENT I CHOSE TO ALTER THE PATH OF MY LIFE TO SAVE YOURS.
BUT IN THE END, YOU HAVE DONE FAR MORE THAN I HOPED.
YOU HAVE TAUGHT YOUR TEACHER THAT LIFE IS TOO PRECIOUS A GIFT EVER TO BE SURRENDERED, AND THAT IT IS A DIFFICULT LESSON FOR A ONCE-IMMORTAL TO LEARN.
THE STAFF IS YOURS, NOW, STARMAN!
B-BUT MI'TORR.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
MY POWER IS SO DIMINISHED, I CANNOT LIVE ON HERE IN YOUR HOSTILE UNIVERSE... SO I GIVE TO YOU THAT WHICH REMAINS OF MY STRENGTH.
WITH IT, YOU MAY FIND YOUR PATH BACK TO YOUR FAMILAR STARS... AND TO THE TASKS THAT AWAIT YOU THERE.
YOU HAVE DIED TWICE FOR YOUR PEOPLE--BUT YOU HAVE TWO MORE DEATHS TO GIVE THEM... AND I HAVE MINE!
FAREWELL, STARMAN!
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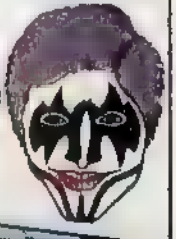

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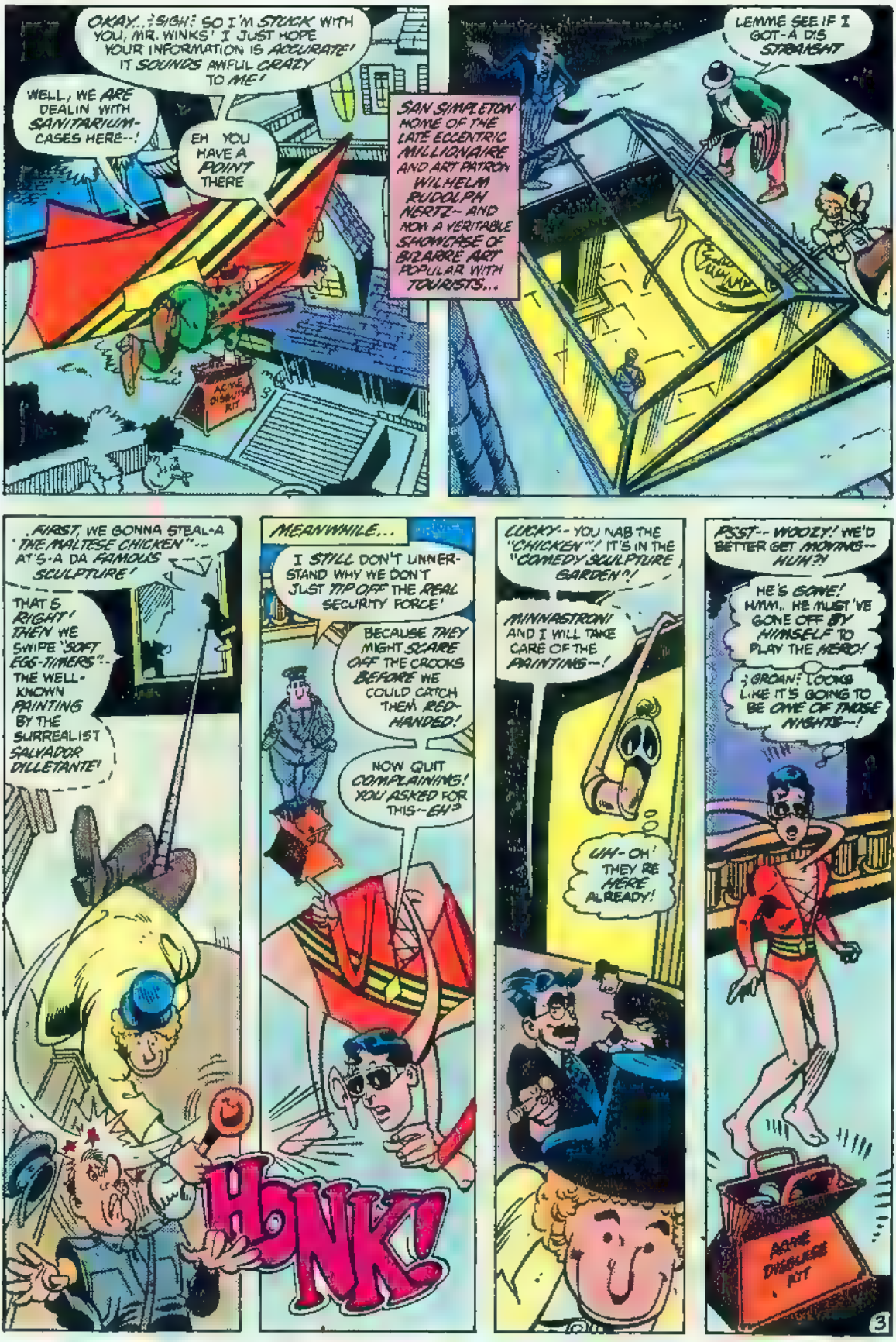
CREATED BY: Jack Cole
MURPHY'S LAW: THAT WHICH CAN GO WRONG WILL GO WRONG
MURPHY'S ADDENDUM: THAT WHICH CAN GO WRONG WILL GO WRONG AT THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME
MURPHY'S NEPHEW WOOZY WINKS...
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR PUTTING OFF FILING MY REPORTS ON THE LAST 16 CASES I SOLVED
ENOUGH PAPER-WORK TO CHOKE A BUREAUCRAT..!
BUT I CAN WRAP THIS UP IN ANOTHER TWELVE HOURS IF ONLY I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE INTERRUPTIONS--
WHAM!
MAN, PLASTIC -- SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR
PLAS! PLAS! I GOT A HOT TIP FOR YA-- ON A ROBBERY!
ACME BUSINESS MACHINES
MARTIN PASKO
WRITER beyond compare
JOE STATON & BOB SMITH
ARTISTS without equal
GENE D'ANGELO
colorist above reproach
JOHN COSTANZA
letterer overworked
LEN WEIN
editor out to lunch

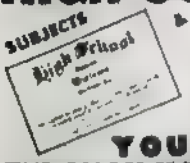
'COURSE, IF YOU WANNA HEAR MORE ABOUT IT, YA HAFTA PROMISE YOU'LL LET ME HELP CATCH THE CROOKS...
...SO I GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO SHOW MY STUFF TO THE N.B.I.!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! ; GROAN! JUST TELL ME ALREADY!
MAN
HAPPY RAP RAP
WELL... I BEEN WORKIN' AS A WAITER IN THE DININ' ROOM AT THE OLD GUMSHOE SANITARIUM.'
THAT'S A REST-HOME FOR EX-PRIVATE DETECTIVES THAT DON'T HAVE ALL THE BUTTONS ON THEIR TRENCHCOATS NO MORE... SO TO SPEAK.
"YESTERDAY, FOUR V.I.P.S--THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT PATIENTS-- WAS HAVIN' LUNCH.
"J. FOSTER FABRICANT AN' HIS LEG-MEN, MINNA-STRONI AN LUCKY-- AN' A GUY NAMED SAM SPUDD."
UH. WHO GETS THE SHERLOCK HOLMESBURGER?
SAM SPUDD
J. FOSTER FABRICANT
MINNASTRONI
LUCKY
JUST BE GLAD YOU GUYS ARE OUT OF THE PRIVATE EYE RACKET! AIN'T NO MONEY OR GLAMOR IN IT NO MORE!
THAT'S THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING I EVER HOID!
YEAH? I BETCHA YA MADE MORE DOUGH WHEN YA USETA BE A CROOK THEN YA EVER DID AS A P.I.!
TOO BAD YOU AN' YER BOYS HAVE LOST YER TOUCH!
AT 6-A ONE-A BIG-A FAT LIE!
THEN PROVE IT! I GOT $2,500 IN BUFFALO NICKELS THAT SAYS IF YOU GUYS PULL OFF A ROBBERY WHICH I'LL PLAN FOR YA...
...YA'LL HAUL IN MORE DOUGH THAN YA EVER MADE IN DETECTIVE'S FEES!
YOU'RE ON!
..SO SPUDD WANTS 'EM TO ROB TWO ART TREASURES FROM THE OLD "SAN SIMPLETON" MUSEUM AFTER CLOSIN' TIME-- TONIGHT!
THANKS FOR THE TIP, WOOZY! KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE WHILE I'M GONE, OKAY?
BUT PLAS-- YOU PROMISED--!
2


OKAY..! SIGH! SO I'M STUCK WITH YOU, MR. WINKS! I JUST HOPE YOUR INFORMATION IS ACCURATE! IT SOUNDS AWFUL CRAZY TO ME!
WELL, WE ARE DEALIN WITH SANITARIUM-CASES HERE--!
EH YOU HAVE A POINT THERE
ACME DISGUISE KIT
SAN SIMPLETON HOME OF THE LATE ECCENTRIC MILLIONAIRE AND ART PATRON WILHELM RUDOLPH NERTZ-- AND NOW A VERITABLE SHOWCASE OF BIZARRE ART POPULAR WITH TOURISTS...
LEMME SEE IF I GOT-A DIS STRAIGHT
FIRST, WE GONNA STEAL-A "THE MALTESE CHICKEN"-- AT'S-A DA FAMOUS SCULPTURE!
THAT'S RIGHT! THEN WE SWIPE "SOFT EGG-TIMERS"-- THE WELL-KNOWN PAINTING BY THE SURREALIST SALVADOR DILLETANTE!
MEANWHILE...
I STILL DON'T UNNERSTAND WHY WE DON'T JUST TIP OFF THE REAL SECURITY FORCE!
BECAUSE THEY MIGHT SCARE OFF THE CROOKS BEFORE WE COULD CATCH THEM RED-HANDED!
NOW QUIT COMPLAININGS! YOU ASKED FOR THIS--EH?
HONK!
LUCKY-- YOU NAB THE "CHICKEN"! IT'S IN THE "COMEDY SCULPTURE GARDEN"!
MINNASTRONI AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE PAINTINGS--!
UH-OH! THEY'RE HERE ALREADY!
PSST-- WOOZY! WE'D BETTER GET MOVING-- HUH?!
HE'S GONE! HMM.. HE MUST'VE GONE OFF BY HIMSELF TO PLAY THE HERO!
GROAN! LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS--!
ACME DISGUISE KIT
3

PRESENTLY...
I KNOW THE LATE MR. MERTZ WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS OFF-BEAT 'TASTE' IN ART AND HIS SENSE OF THE ABSURD..
...BUT AFTER GETTING A GOOD LOOK AT HIS ART COLLECTION..
SELTZER IN DUQUAINE
HONK!
HONK!
HONK!
VEN CE MAMPRICLE
...I DON'T KNOW WHO BELONGS IN A SANITARIUM MORE--
THE CROOKS I'M AFTER.. OR THE ART APPRAISERS WHO MAKE THIS JUNK VALUABLE ENOUGH TO ATTRACT THEM!
SPEAKING OF WHICH..
THE MALTESE CHICKEN
...'THE MALTESE CHICKEN" HAS JUST ATTRACTED A LESS-THAN-ETHICAL "ART COLLECTOR"!
GOTCHA!
THE MALTE
WELL "LUCKY"... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND YOURSELF A NEW NAME..!
STEVE MUTTON
WHOCK!
YIPE! HE'S KNOCKED ME FLATTER THAN THAT WHICH THERE'S AN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF!
A BOMB?! NOW THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN'T "BOUNCE BACK" FROM'
AND UNLESS I PUT OUT THAT FUSE RIGHT AWAY, I COULD BE BLOWN TO PLASTIC SMITHEREENS--!
SSSS!
ACME LEAPLOSS CO.
4

HIGH SCHOOL

SUBJECTS & RING



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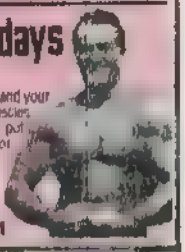

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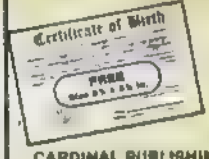

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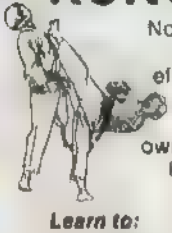

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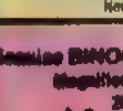

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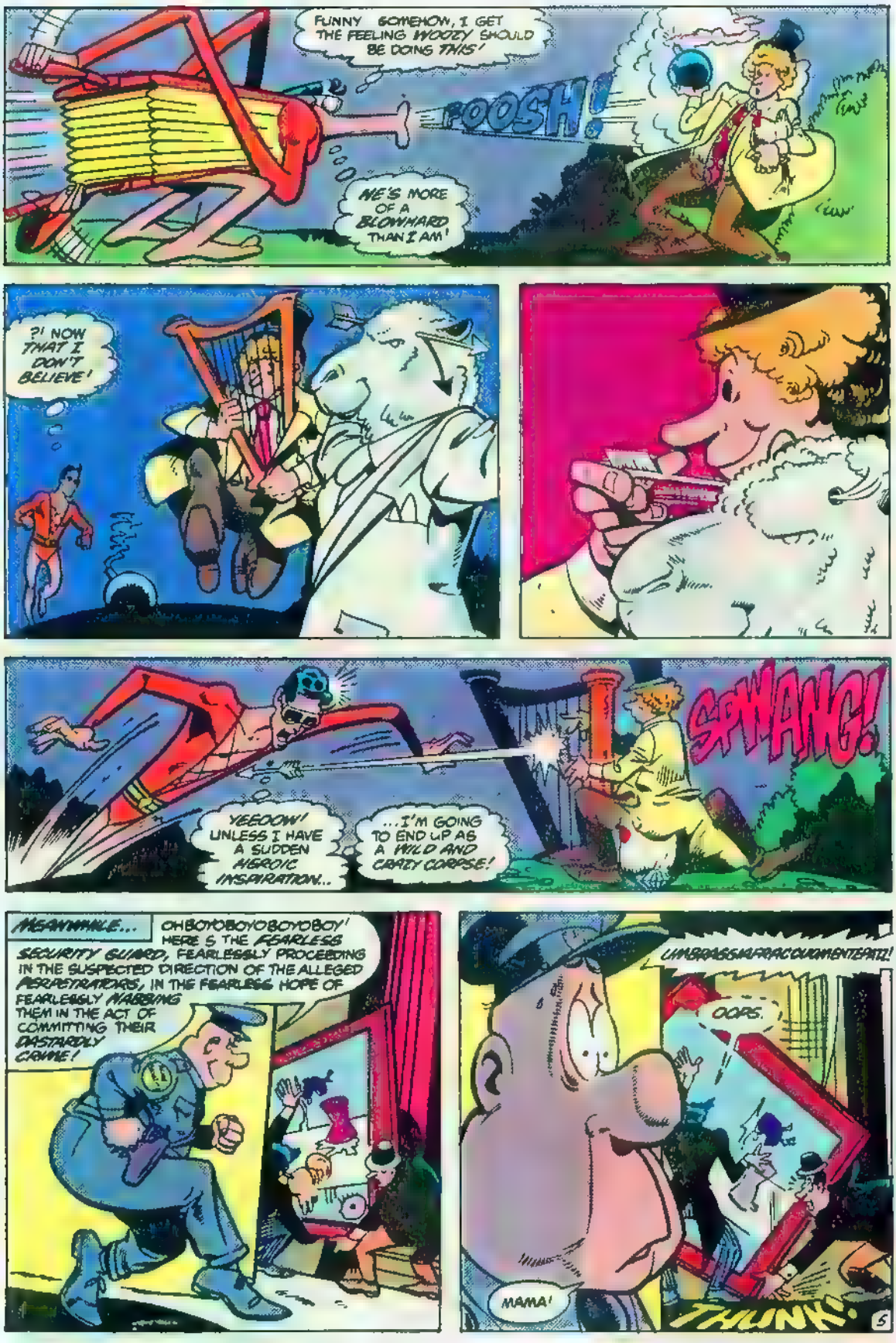
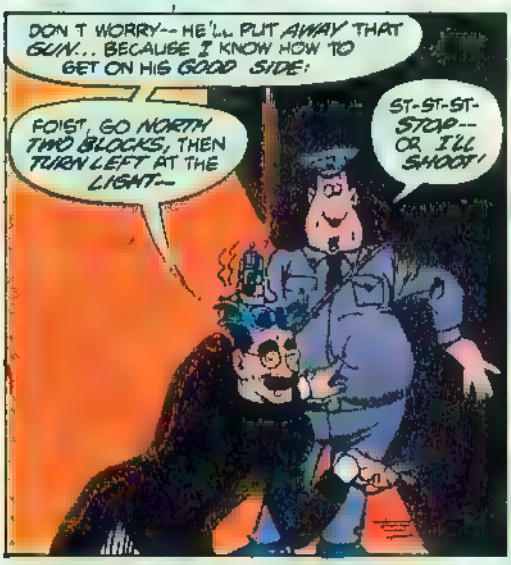
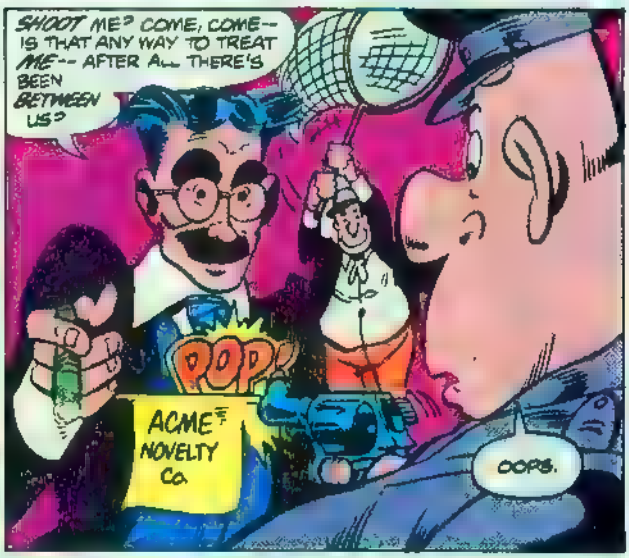
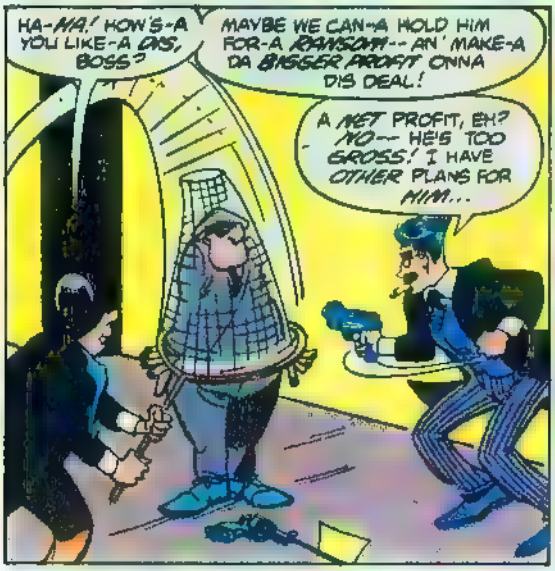

FUNNY SOMEHOW, I GET THE FEELING WOODY SHOULD BE DOING THIS!
FOOSH!
HE'S MORE OF A BLOWHARD THAN I AM!
?! NOW THAT I DON'T BELIEVE!
SPWANG!
YEEOOW! UNLESS I HAVE A SUDDEN HEROIC INSPIRATION...
...I'M GOING TO END UP AS A WILD AND CRAZY CORPSE!
MEANWHILE...
OHBOYOBOYOBOYOBOY! HERE'S THE FEARLESS SECURITY GUARD, FEARLESSLY PROCEEDING IN THE SUSPECTED DIRECTION OF THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS, IN THE FEARLESS HOPE OF FEARLESSLY NABBING THEM IN THE ACT OF COMMITTING THEIR DASTARDLY CRIME!
UMBRAGGMAFRACOUDMENTEATI!
OOPS.
MAMA!
THUNK!
5

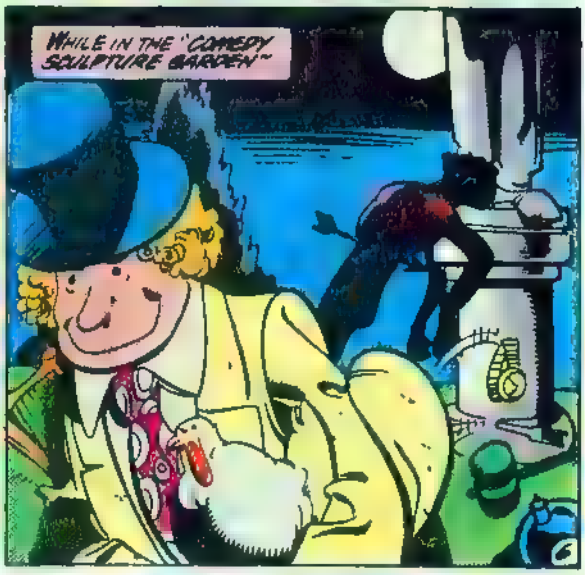
I'VE HOID OF DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

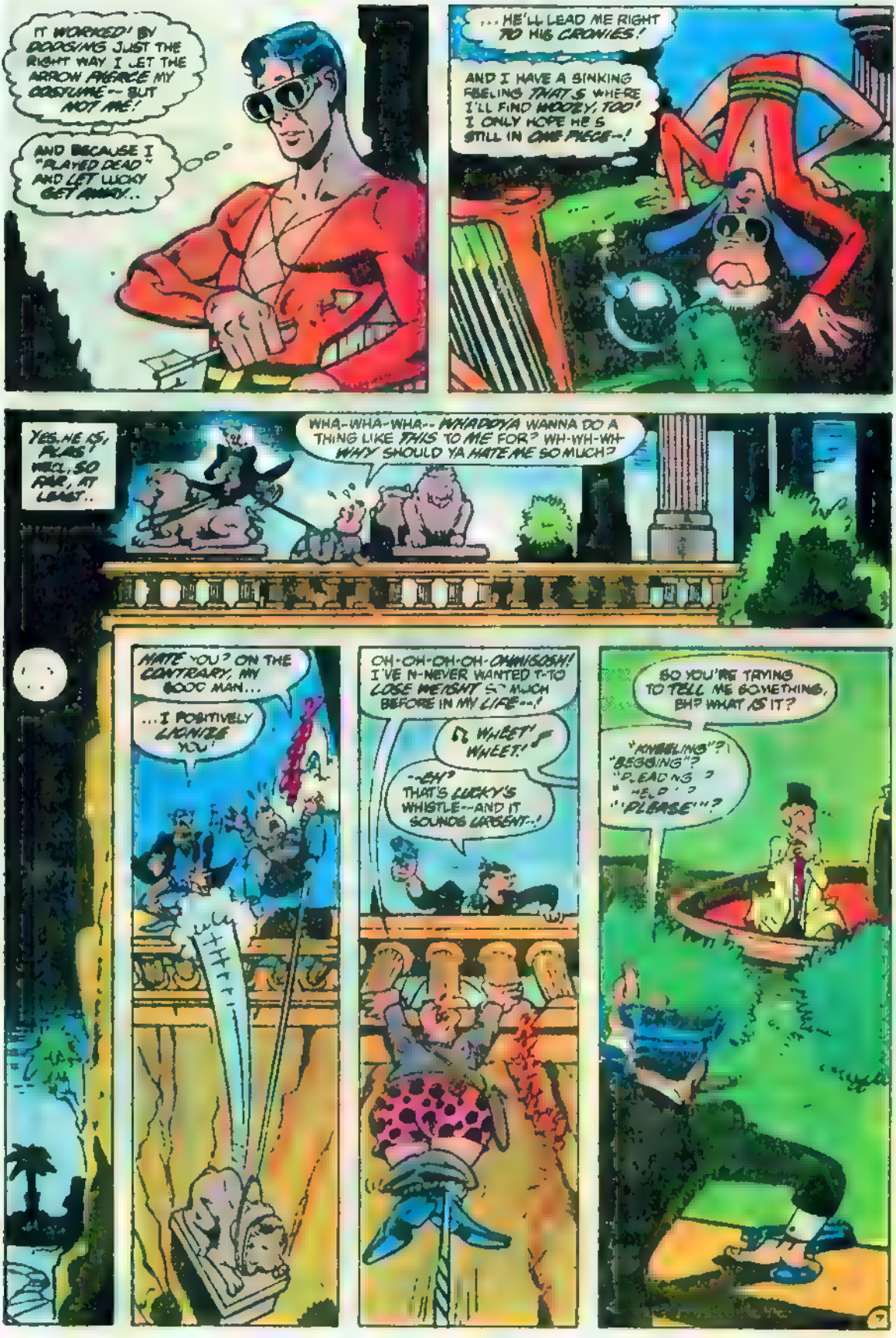
AH... WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A SECURITY GUARD, EH?
YOU LOOK PRETTY INSECURE TO ME! AND NO WONDER-- YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE FOR A SECURITY GUARD!
I'LL BET WHEN YOU FALL ASLEEP ON A BEACH, PEOPLE SET FIRE TO YOU!
ACME SECURITY


DON T WORRY-- HE'LL PUT AWAY THAT GUN... BECAUSE I KNOW HOW TO GET ON HIS GOOD SIDE:
FOIST, GO NORTH TWO BLOCKS, THEN TURN LEFT AT THE LIGHT--
ST-ST-ST-STOP-- OR I'LL SHOOT!

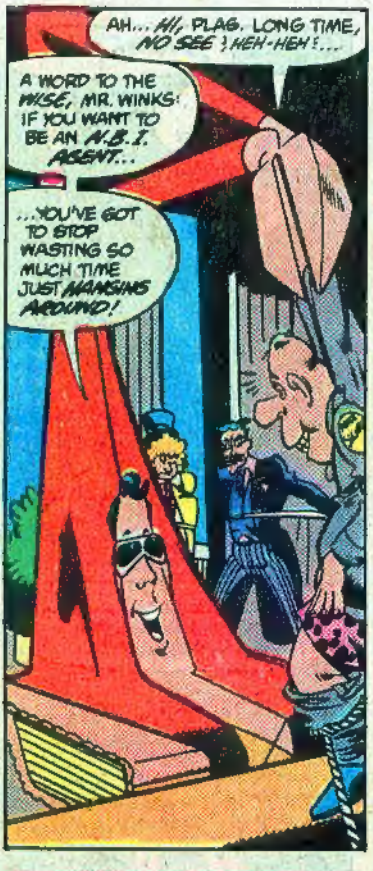

SHOOT ME? COME, COME-- IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT ME-- AFTER ALL THERE'S BEEN BETWEEN US?
POP!
ACME NOVELTY Co.
OOPS.

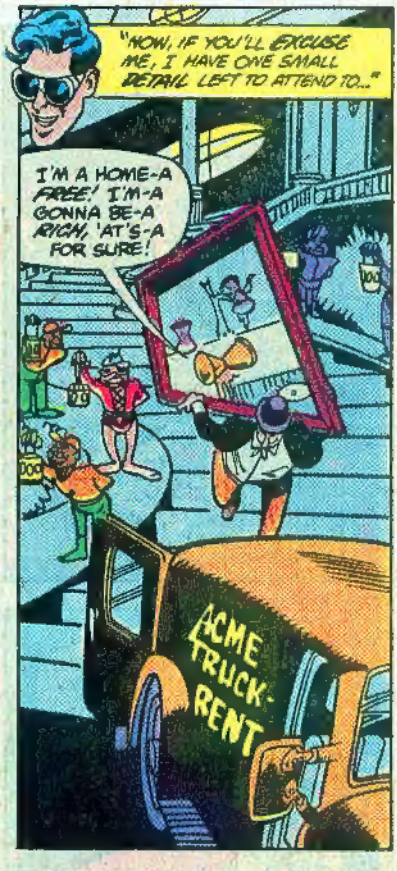

HA-HA! HOW'S-A YOU LIKE-A DIS, BOSS?
MAYBE WE CAN-A HOLD HIM FOR-A RANSOM-- AN' MAKE-A DA BIGGER PROFIT ONNA DIS DEAL!
A NET PROFIT, EH? NO-- HE'S TOO GROSS! I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR HIM...

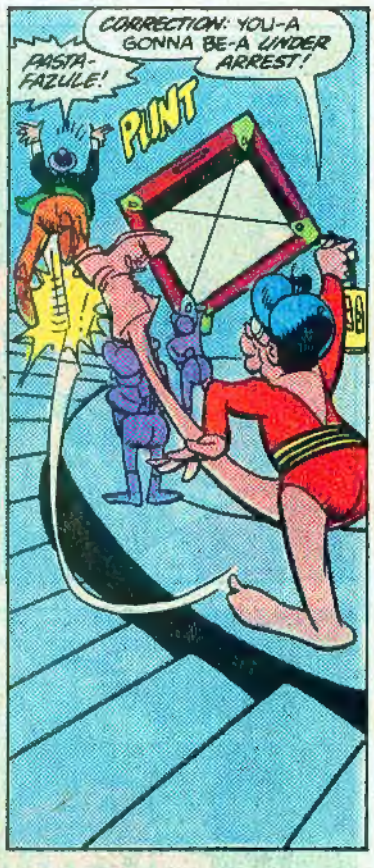

WHILE IN THE "COMEDY SCULPTURE GARDEN"~


IT WORKED! BY DODGING JUST THE RIGHT WAY I LET THE ARROW PIERCE MY COSTUME -- BUT NOT ME!
AND BECAUSE I "PLAYED DEAD" AND LET LUCKY GET AWAY!..
...HE'LL LEAD ME RIGHT TO HIS CRONIES!
AND I HAVE A SINKING FEELING THAT'S WHERE I'LL FIND WOODY, TOO! I ONLY HOPE HE'S STILL IN ONE PIECE--!
YES, HE IS, PLUS WELL, SO FAR, AT LEAST..
WHA-WHA-WHA-- WHADDYA WANNA DO A THING LIKE THIS TO ME FOR? WH-WH-WH-WHY SHOULD YA HATE ME SO MUCH?
HATE YOU? ON THE CONTRARY, MY GOOD MAN...
...I POSITIVELY LIONIZE YOU!
OH-OH-OH-OH-OHMIGOSH! I'VE N-NEVER WANTED T-TO LOSE WEIGHT SO MUCH BEFORE IN MY LIFE--!
♫ WHEET! WHEET! ♫
--EH? THAT'S LUCKY'S WHISTLE--AND IT SOUNDS URGENT..!
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING, EH? WHAT IS IT?
"KNEELING"? "BEGGING"? "PLEADING"? "HELP"? "PLEASE"?

♫ WHEET! WHEET! ♫
"PLEASE," EH? OKAY... WHAT'S NEXT?
"SHAKING"? "ITCHING"? "NERVOUSNESS"? "SPASM"? "TIC"?
♫ WHEET! WHEET! ♫
"TIC"? HMM... "PLEASE, TIC"... "PLEASE, TIC"--?!
NOW WHAT?
"YOU"? "LUCKY"? "MUTE"? "PERSON"? "MAN"?
♫ WHEET! WHEET! ♫
"PLEASE, TIC, MAN"... "PLEASE, TIC, MAN"... "PLEASE, TIC, MAN"?!
PLEASE, TIC, MAN... PLEASE, TIC, MAN... PLEASE, TIC, MAN...
OH, I GET IT NOW— "PLASTIC MAN"!
PLASTIC MAN?!?!
SPOOOOOSH!
60 SECONDS LATER...
VUUU?
CLAMP!
8


AH... HI, PLAS. LONG TIME, NO SEE! HEH-HEH!...
A WORD TO THE WISE, MR. WINKS: IF YOU WANT TO BE AN A.B.I. ASSENT...
...YOU'VE GOT TO STOP WASTING SO MUCH TIME JUST MAMSHS AROUND!


"NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE ONE SMALL DETAIL LEFT TO ATTEND TO..."
I'M A HOME-A FREE! I'M-A GONNA BE-A RICH, 'AT'S-A FOR SURE!
ACME TRUCK-RENT


CORRECTION: YOU-A GONNA BE-A UNDER ARREST!
PASTA-FAZULE!
PUNT

AND SO, ONCE AGAIN, GOOD TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL (OR INSANITY OR SOMETHING-OR-OTHER...)
THEY WON'T BE GOING TO PRISON, THEN, PLAS?
NO, WOOZY... JUST BACK TO THE HOME -- FROM WHICH THEY WON'T BE RELEASED FOR A VERY LONG TIME! DITTO SAM SPUDD!

AND FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, I SUGGEST YOU START LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB!
SPEAKING OF WORK, I'D BETTER GET BACK TO MINE! THE CHIEF TENDS TO THROW THINGS WHEN HE GETS MAD...

...AND WHEN HE SEES HOW FAR BEHIND I AM, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DUCK!
ONE QUESTION, PLAS: WHY A DUCK?
DO ME A FAVOR, WOOZY? PLEASE SHUT UP...
NEXT: PLAS DISCOVERS THAT TALK MAY BE CHEAP -- BUT IT CAN ALSO BE DEADLY... WHEN HE MEETS THE GABBIEST GUNSEL OF ALL TIME... CHATTERBOX IN SUPER-FRIENDS #42! ON SALE DEC. 29TH!
TH-TH-TH-THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!

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THE DINGO KIDS MEET O.J. SIMPSON
IT'S O.J. SIMPSON BREAKING OFF TACKLE! HE'S AT THE 40, THE 30. HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY. IT'S A TOUCH DOWN!
LATER ... IN THE LOCKER ROOM
WOW! O.J. SIMPSON! LET'S GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!
AW, A SUPERSTAR LIKE HIM WOULDN'T NOTICE US...
HEY! WITH THOSE DINGO BOOTS, YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE SUPERSTARS!
O.J.! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE WEARING DINGO'S?
MAN, IT'S EASY! NOBODY PUTS LEATHER TOGETHER LIKE DINGO! I WEAR DINGO'S MYSELF!
YOU WEAR DINGO'S, O.J.!
SURE! I'VE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL ON MY FEET AFTER A GREAT GAME.
HEY, O.J. HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?
FOR THE DINGO KIDS? YOU BET!
O.J. Dingo
KIDS! GET YOUR FREE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF ME, O.J.! MAIL TO "O.J. DINGO", P.O. BOX 749, CLARKSVILLE, TENN. 37040.
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